

ACHROMYCIN[®]

Tetracycline capsules

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about ACHROMYCIN. It does not contain all the available information.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking ACHROMYCIN against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine.

You may need to read it again.

What ACHROMYCIN is used for

ACHROMYCIN is an antibiotic used to treat certain infections found in the chest, urinary tract and gut. Some of the infections ACHROMYCIN is used to treat include brucellosis, trachoma, conjunctivitis and psittacosis. It is also used to treat certain fevers such as typhus, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Q fever and tick fever. It is also be used to treat many other infections including severe acne or syphilis or yaws.

ACHROMYCIN belongs to a group of medicines called tetracyclines.

These medicines work by killing or stopping the growth of bacteria, which cause infections or make acne worse.

Tetracyclines will not work against viral infections such as colds or flu.

Your doctor, however, may prescribe ACHROMYCIN for another purpose. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why ACHROMYCIN has been prescribed for you.

ACHROMYCIN is not addictive.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

Before you take ACHROMYCIN

When you must not take it

Do not take ACHROMYCIN if:

- 1. you have ever had an allergic reaction to :**
 - medicines containing tetracycline hydrochloride
 - medicines containing other tetracyclines
 - any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction to a tetracycline antibiotic may include rash, itching or hives on the skin, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, shortness of breath, wheezing or troubled breathing.

- 2. you are pregnant or breastfeeding**

As with many medicines, tetracyclines may harm the developing or breastfeeding baby. This may include enamel loss and staining of the baby's developing teeth.

High doses of tetracyclines may also cause liver problems in pregnant women.

- 3. you have systemic lupus erythematosus (lupus)**

- 4. you have severe kidney disease**

If you are not sure whether you should be taking ACHROMYCIN, talk to your doctor.

Do not use ACHROMYCIN if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

Do not use ACHROMYCIN after the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack has passed.

If you use this medicine after the expiry date it may have no effect at all, or worse, an unexpected effect.

Do not give ACHROMYCIN to children of eight years and under unless directed by the child's doctor.

ACHROMYCIN, like other tetracyclines, may cause enamel loss and staining in the child's developing teeth.

Before you start to take it

You must tell your doctor if:

- 1. you are allergic to any other medicines or other substances such as foods, dyes or preservatives.**
- 2. you have or have had any other health problems, including:**

- kidney disease
- systemic lupus erythematosus

- 3. you plan to become pregnant**
ACHROMYCIN, like other tetracyclines can affect your unborn baby's teeth and bone development.

- 4. you plan to breastfeed**
Do not use ACHROMYCIN if you are breastfeeding or planning to breastfeed unless you and your doctor have discussed the risks and benefits involved.

ACHROMYCIN can pass into breast milk.

If you have not told your doctor or pharmacist about any of the above, tell them before you start taking ACHROMYCIN.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including medicines you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop. Some medicines may interfere with ACHROMYCIN. These include:

- warfarin, a medicine used to stop blood clotting
- diuretics, a group of medicines which increase urine production
- another group of antibiotics called penicillins
- the contraceptive pill (birth control pill)

ACHROMYCIN may decrease the effectiveness of some birth control pills.

Your doctor may advise you to use an additional method of contraception while taking ACHROMYCIN.

These medicines may be affected by ACHROMYCIN or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicine or you may need to take different medicines. Your doctor will advise you.

Some medicines may interfere with the absorption of ACHROMYCIN.

These include:

- iron preparations including vitamin preparations that contain iron
- antacids used for indigestion

You can still take these medicines while you are taking ACHROMYCIN. However, you must take ACHROMYCIN at least one hour before or two hours after taking any of these medicines to make sure there is no problem with absorption.

Your doctor or pharmacist may have more information on medicines to be

careful with or avoid while taking ACHROMYCIN.

How to take ACHROMYCIN

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor and pharmacist carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

If you do not understand the instructions on the label ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.

How much to take

For treating most infections, the usual dose of ACHROMYCIN is between 250 mg to 500 mg taken four times a day.

For some diseases such as syphilis and brucellosis, your doctor may change the dose.

If you have kidney disease, your doctor will adjust the dose to suit you.

For children older than 8 years old the dose depends on their bodyweight. The usual daily dose is between 25 mg and 50 mg per kilogram of bodyweight but should not be more than the adult dose.

How to take it

Swallow ACHROMYCIN with a glass of water.

Do NOT take ACHROMYCIN with food or milk. Take ACHROMYCIN either one hour before or two hours after meals.

Do not lie down immediately after swallowing ACHROMYCIN. It is important to stay upright, for example sitting, standing or walking around, for at least half an hour after swallowing your capsule. This is to help avoid irritation to your food pipe, or oesophagus.

When to take it

Take ACHROMYCIN on an empty stomach, either one hour before or two hours after any food.

How long to take it

Do not stop taking the capsules because you are feeling better.

If you do not complete the full course prescribed by your doctor, not all of the bacteria causing your infection may be killed. These bacteria may continue to grow and multiply so that your infection may not clear completely or may return.

For treating infections, ACHROMYCIN is usually taken for one or two weeks.

For treating fevers, ACHROMYCIN is taken for at least another 48 hours after you feel well and the fever has gone.

For controlling acne, ACHROMYCIN is normally taken for a few months.

If you are not sure how long you should be taking ACHROMYCIN, talk to your doctor.

Continue taking ACHROMYCIN until you finish the pack or until your doctor recommends.

If you forget to take it

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to. Otherwise, take it as soon as you remember, then go back to taking your capsules as you would normally.

Do not double a dose to make up for the dose you have missed.

If you have trouble remembering to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) for advice, or go to casualty at your nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much ACHROMYCIN. Do this even if there are no signs

of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention. Keep telephone numbers for these places handy.

While you are taking ACHROMYCIN

Things you must do

If you are taking ACHROMYCIN for an infection and your symptoms do not improve within a few days, or if they become worse, tell your doctor.

If you get severe diarrhoea, tell your doctor or pharmacist immediately. Do this even if it occurs several weeks after ACHROMYCIN has been stopped. Diarrhoea may mean that you have a serious condition affecting your bowel. You may need urgent medical care. Do not take any diarrhoea medicine without first checking with your doctor.

If you become pregnant while taking ACHROMYCIN, tell your doctor immediately.

If you are about to start taking any new medicines, tell your doctor or pharmacist that you are taking ACHROMYCIN.

Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking ACHROMYCIN.

If you are taking iron preparations, including vitamin preparations containing iron, or antacids, you must take them at least two hours before or two hours after ACHROMYCIN to make sure there is no problem with absorption

Things you must not do

Do not stop taking your capsules because you are feeling better, unless advised by your doctor. If you do not complete the full course prescribed by your doctor, not all of the bacteria causing your infection may be killed. These bacteria may continue to grow and

multiply so that your infection may not clear completely or it may return.

Do not give ACHROMYCIN to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

Do not use ACHROMYCIN to treat any other medical complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

Things to be careful of

Protect your skin when you are in the sun, especially between 10 am and 3 pm. ACHROMYCIN may cause your skin to be much more sensitive to sunlight than it is normally. Exposure to sunlight may cause a skin rash, itching, redness, or severe sunburn.

If outdoors, wear protective clothing and use a SPF15+ sunscreen. If your skin does appear to be burning, stop taking ACHROMYCIN and tell your doctor.

If you get thrush (a fungal infection which can affect the mouth and / or vagina) or any other infection while taking, or soon after stopping ACHROMYCIN, tell your doctor. Sometimes use of this medicine allows fungi to grow. These fungi are not killed by ACHROMYCIN.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking ACHROMYCIN.

ACHROMYCIN is effective against infections for most people but may have unwanted side effects in some. All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- feeling sick or vomiting

- diarrhoea
- loss of appetite
- oral thrush - white, furry, sore tongue and mouth
- vaginal thrush - sore and itchy vagina and/or discharge

These are the more common side effects of ACHROMYCIN.

Less common and rare side effects of ACHROMYCIN include:

- headaches
- rash or hives
- flaking or peeling of the skin
- increased sensitivity to sunlight
- difficulty in swallowing
- infection by other bacteria or organisms resistant to ACHROMYCIN
- burning in the throat
- liver or kidney problems

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following:

- allergic reactions such as swelling of the face or tongue
- severe diarrhoea
- headache and blurred vision
- tiredness, headaches, being short of breath when exercising, dizziness, looking pale and yellowing of the skin and/or eyes

These are serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention. Serious side effects are rare.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some patients. Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.

After finishing it

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following side effects, particularly if they occur several weeks after stopping treatment with ACHROMYCIN:

- severe abdominal cramps or stomach cramps
- watery and severe diarrhoea, which may also be bloody

- fever, in combination with one or both of the above

These are rare but serious side effects. You may have a serious condition affecting your bowel. Therefore, you may need urgent medical attention. However, this side effect is rare.

Do not take any medicine for this diarrhoea without first checking with your doctor.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you don't understand anything in this list.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

After using ACHROMYCIN

Storage

Keep your capsules in the blister pack until it is time to take them. If you take the capsules out of the blister pack, they may not keep well.

Keep ACHROMYCIN in a cool; dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C. Do not store it, or any other medicine, in a bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave them in the car or on windowsills.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep ACHROMYCIN where children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking ACHROMYCIN, or the capsules have passed their expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any capsules left over.

Product description

What it looks like

ACHROMYCIN

ACHROMYCIN 250 mg capsules are orange and are marked with "Sigma 250 mg".

ACHROMYCIN comes in box of containing 24 capsules packed in blisters.

Ingredients

The active ingredient in ACHROMYCIN is tetracycline.

Each ACHROMYCIN 250 mg capsule contains 250 mg tetracycline.

ACHROMYCIN capsules also contain:

- lactose
- magnesium stearate
- gelatin

The colouring agents in ACHROMYCIN are:

- erythrosine CI 45430 (127)
- sunset yellow CI 15985 (110)
- titanium dioxide (171)
- Opacode S-1-8264 HV grey 0913

The number in brackets following the colouring agent is the Australian Food Standard code.

ACHROMYCIN does not contain gluten, sucrose, tartrazine or any other azo dyes.

Manufacturer

ACHROMYCIN is supplied in Australia by:

Sigma Pharmaceuticals (Australia) Pty Ltd
96 Merrindale Drive
Croydon Victoria 3136
Australia

Phone: (03) 9839 2800

Australian Registration Number
ACHROMYCIN 250 mg capsules
AUST R 76906

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